

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) A moving picture coding method for generating a coded stream by coding a moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis, wherein said moving picture coding method comprises the following steps performed when coding a current picture to be coded which is included in a random access unit including: pictures belonging to a group of pictures starting with a first I-picture which is a first random access point and ending with a picture located immediately-before a second I-picture which is a second random access point; and parameter sets for decoding pictures in the random access unit, the current picture being located after the first I-picture in coding order, said moving picture coding method comprising:

- a first coding step of coding a parameter set selected for decoding the current picture to be coded;

- a second coding step of coding the current picture to be coded based on the contents included in the selected parameter set; and

- a coded stream generating step of generating a coded stream so that the selected and coded parameter set is located before the coded first I-picture in the random access unit including the first I-picture, the selected and coded parameter set being unnecessary for the first I-picture.

25. (Previously Presented) A moving picture decoding method for generating a moving picture signal by decoding a coded stream generated by coding a random access unit including: pictures belonging to a group of pictures starting with a first I-picture which is a first random access point and ending with a picture located immediately-before a second I-picture which is a second random access point; and parameter sets for decoding pictures in the random access unit, said moving picture decoding method comprising:

- an extracting step of extracting a coded first parameter set located before a coded first I-picture in the random access unit including the first I-picture;

a parameter set decoding step of decoding the coded first parameter set extracted in said extracting step; and

a picture decoding step of decoding, using the decoded first parameter set, a current coded picture to be decoded which is included in the random access unit and which is located after the first I-picture in coding order.

26. (Previously Presented) A moving picture decoding method according to Claim 25, further comprising:

a second extracting step of extracting a coded second parameter set located before the coded first I-picture in the random access unit including the first I-picture;

a second parameter set decoding step of decoding the coded second parameter set; and

a second picture decoding step of decoding, using the decoded second parameter set, the current coded I-picture to be decoded.

27. (Previously Presented) A recording method for recording a coded stream in which a video signal is coded on a picture-by-picture basis, onto a computer-readable recording medium, wherein said recording method comprises the following steps performed when coding a current picture to be coded which is included in a random access unit including: pictures belonging to a group of pictures starting with a first I-picture which is a first random access point and ending with a picture located immediately-before a second I-picture which is a second random access point; and parameter sets for decoding pictures in the random access unit, the current picture being located after the first I-picture in coding order, said recording method comprising:

a first coding step of coding a parameter set selected for decoding the current picture to be coded;

a second coding step of coding the current picture to be coded based on the contents included in the selected parameter set; and

a coded stream generating step of generating a coded stream so that the selected and coded parameter set is located before the coded first I-picture in the random access unit including the first I-

picture, the selected and coded parameter set being unnecessary for the first I-picture; and
a recording step of recording the coded stream onto the recording medium.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable~~ recording medium readable by a decoding apparatus and having a coded stream recorded thereon, the coded stream being decodable by the decoding apparatus and having a data structure including a random access unit comprising: a group of pictures starting with a first I-picture which is a first random access point and ending with a picture located immediately-before a second I-picture which is a second random access point; and a coded parameter set located before the first I-picture for decoding pictures to be included in the random access unit, wherein the coded parameter set is used by the decoding apparatus for decoding a succeeding picture located after the first I- picture and is not used for decoding the first I-picture.